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Islamabad flaunts military prowess for King Abdullah

• PM Shehbaz says Jordanian royal's visit reflects 'enduring friendship, shared desire for peace'

• Army chief vows deeper military cooperation with Amman, 'shared vision' for regional stability

• President Zardari confers highest civilian award on visiting monarch, gesture reciprocated

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir hosted Jordan's King Abdullah II at the Tilla Field Firing Ranges on Sunday, where Pakistan staged an extensive display of firepower and operational readiness as part of the monarch's official visit.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Field Marshal Munir reiterated Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening military-to-military cooperation with Jordan and advancing a shared vision for a stable and peaceful region.

The ISPR said in a statement that the army chief underscored the "strong defence partnership" between Pakistan and the Hashemite Kingdom during Jordan's King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein's visit to the Tilla Field Firing Ranges near Jhelum.

Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari conferred the highest civil award on King Abdullah during a special investiture ceremony at the Presidency.

The Jordanian monarch, who arrived in Pakistan on Saturday for a two-day official trip, also visited the Global Industrial and Defence Solutions (GIDS), the state-owned conglomerate that exports and markets military, industrial and technological products and services.

He was accompanied by Princess Salma bint Abdullah II and a delegation of senior Jordanian civil and military officials. The guests were received by Field Marshal Munir and other senior officers.

The ISPR said King Abdullah was given a detailed briefing on GIDS' structure, capabilities and product portfolio. "The briefing showcased Pakistan's progress in indigenous defence production, technological innovation and potential avenues for bilateral defence cooperation between Pakistan and Jordan," it added.

Later, King Abdullah visited the Tilla Field Firing Ranges, where he was joined by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Azerbaijan's Minister of Defence Industry Vugar Mustafayev was also among the distinguished guests.

The visitors observed a joint fire and manoeuvre exercise showcasing multi-domain operations, including conventional and air firepower, coordinated manoeuvres, spectrum warfare and the use of multi-purpose drones in various configurations and roles, the ISPR said.

"King Abdullah II appreciated the high standards of training,

Continued on Page 3

KATUNAYAKE: Pakistan captain Nimra Rafique (2nd right) shakes hands with Indian players at the end of the Women's Blind Twenty20 World Cup match at the BOI Cricket Stadium on Sunday. At what organisers describe as the world's first blind women's T20 tournament, players from the two South Asian neighbours brushed aside political tensions, choosing to shake hands in neutral Sri Lanka, while athletes in other fixtures have avoided such gestures.—AFP Report on Page 18

Maiden session of 11th NFC delayed again

• Move comes amid downward revision in growth forecast to 3.5pc for current fiscal • Calls from IMF, armed forces, others to re-balance transfer of resources to provinces go unheeded • Centre 'backs off' from changes to award after deal with PPP

By Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The inaugural session of the National Finance Commission (NFC), constituted three months ago, is not in sight, as the proposed date of Nov 18 has also been postponed amid a downward revision in the economic growth forecast by up to 0.7 per cent to 3.5pc for the current fiscal year.

Informed sources said told *Dawn* that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wanted to set the ball rolling at the political level on key Centre-provincial matters before opening the debate for financial rearrangements at the technically-constitutional forum of NFC.

The 11th NFC was constituted on Aug 22 to give a fresh award for the sharing of federal divisible resources among the Centre and the provinces.

The first meeting was originally called for Aug 27 and then delayed to Aug 29 for unannounced reasons. The meeting was postponed again on the request of Sindh government due to floods.

The 7th NFC award delivered in 2009 thus remains in place for over 15 years against its five-year constitutional term.

As a result, repeated calls from various quarters, including the finance ministry, the armed forces, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to re-balance the transfer of a larger chunk of divisible pool resources to the provinces under the 7th NFC award have gone unaddressed.

The Constitution promises that provincial shares

Continued on Page 5

Minister hints at 'more amendments coming'

FAISALABAD: Minister of State for Interior Tallal Chaudhry said on Sunday the government and its coalition partners would responsibly pursue further constitutional amendments if required, vowing to crush any violence from political or religious groups to ensure political stability.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, Mr Chaudhry emphasised that protecting parliamentary authority is a foremost government duty and that politically motivated resignations would not disrupt the democratic process.

"The parliament would continue to operate with full constitutional dignity," he said, adding that politically motivated resignations "would not impede democratic governance or the parliamentary process".

The minister drew a clear line between the roles of the legislature and the judiciary, stating that only the legislative body has the authority to change the nation's constitution.

"Only the parliament holds the constitutional right to amend the constitution, while judges take an oath to uphold the constitution, not to engage in political matters," he said.

Acknowledging a difficult history of "judicial overreach", he cited the "arbitrary removal of elected prime ministers in the past." However, he

Continued on Page 5

Haq to be unseated, Rathore installed in AJK today

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: The PPP appears poised to elevate its regional secretary general, Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore, to the coveted office of prime minister in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) by voting out the incumbent, Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, with a sweeping majority in Monday's Legislative Assembly session.

The resolution for a vote of no confidence against Mr Haq was submitted to the Assembly secretariat on Friday afternoon. Shortly afterwards, Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar summoned the Assembly to meet at 3pm on Monday.

While the PPP had already secured the support of the required 27 lawmakers, its chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari had stressed at a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) should not only support the no-trust move to ensure a "thumping majority" but also join the next coalition setup.

However, the PML-N leadership announced

Continued on Page 5

ON OTHER PAGES

Many areas of Karachi may go dry today

A major power breakdown hit Karachi's Dhabeji Pumping Station on Sunday morning due to which four pumps were shut down and a 72-inch line was affected, causing suspension of water supply to many areas in the city. According to KWSC, Karachi may face a shortage of 100MGD water today (Monday). **Page 13**

Plus...

BUSINESS & FINANCE

'State must ensure women get inheritance rights'

SC Justice Minallah wrote the judgement before tendering his resignation over 27th Amendment issue

By Nasir Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Dismissing an appeal against the Sindh High Court order, the Supreme Court has ruled that the state must ensure every Pakistani woman receives her rightful share of inheritance.

The apex court also called for a mechanism to help them (women) secure this "divinely bestowed" right.

"It is incumbent upon the state under the Constitution and the clear Injunctions of Islam, to ensure the effective and unfettered realisation of women's right to inheritance," the court order read.

The observation came in a seven-page judgement released on Saturday, authored by Justice Athar Minallah for a case heard by him and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan on August 29. The verdict was authored before Justice Minallah resigned as a judge on November 13, criticising the newly passed 27th Amendment that has practically replaced the SC with the Federal Constitutional Court as the country's apex judicial platform.

In its verdict, the SC bench dismissed an appeal filed by Abrar Hussain against a March 3, 2023, order of the Sindh High Court (SHC). The high court had rejected his plea challenging a 2021 order that had also refused his appeal against a 2019 trial court decision.

The case

The case pertained to a property dispute between Hussain and his sister Bibi Shahida, who had filed a complaint in March 2015. Shahida said she repeatedly demanded her share after her father passed away in 2002, as well as her two other siblings later on, but Hussain refused to give it.

Hussain "took exclusive possession of the property; thereby depriving the other legal heirs of their lawful shares", the SC judgement observed.

"The petitioner (Hussain) had no case on merits and yet persisted in litigation, thereby prolonging the deprivation of his siblings of their lawful inheritance, which devolved upon them on 1.1.2002, the date of their father's demise," Justice Minallah wrote.

'Attempt to delay'

"The challenge before this court was nothing more than an attempt to delay and frustrate the rights of the other legal heirs, amounting to a mere abuse of process," he noted.

The state had a constitutional duty to ensure that "every woman is informed of, and enabled to claim her rightful share in inheritance without delay, fear or dependence on lengthy litigation", the judgement read.

It added that the state must establish a "proactive and accessible mechanism through which women can be identified, reached out to," and assisted in securing their

Continued on Page 5

There's still time. Save the industry.

Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts & Accessories Manufacturers

LET'S NOT TRADE TOMORROW FOR YESTERDAY